

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1- (currently amended) A locking device (1) for a screw coupling, said screw coupling comprising a first (2) and a second (4) components rotatable in relation to one another during screwing and unscrewing, the first component (2) comprising a first thread (8) and a rotating engagement formation (11) distant from the first thread (8), the locking device (1) being mounted on the second component (4) and comprising:

- a coupling component (42) for coupling with the engagement formation (11),
- a stop component (38) connected for common rotation with a body (18) carried by the second component (4),
- disconnectable coupling means (49, 51) between the coupling component (42) and the stop component (38), characterized in that the coupling means (49, 51) are of the type with comprises a ratchet allowing relative rotation in the direction of unscrewing when a torque at least indirectly applied to the first and second components with respect to one another overcomes a predetermined elastic resistance is overcome.

2- (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the coupling means comprise comprises

axially pointing teeth ~~(49, 51)~~ formed on the coupling component ~~(38)~~ and on the stop component ~~(42)~~ , which are urged towards one another by a spring ~~(36)~~ in the direction of teeth interpenetration.

3-(currently amended) The device according to claim 2, characterized in that the ~~two~~ coupling and stop components ~~(38, 42)~~ are axially movable in relation to the body ~~(18)~~ and are ~~together~~ commonly urged by the spring ~~(36)~~ towards a stop ~~(44)~~ provided in the body ~~(18)~~ for the coupling component ~~(42)~~ .

4-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the coupling component ~~(42)~~ can be drawn back against a spring ~~(36)~~ and comprises a stop ~~(47)~~ for engagement of a shoulder ~~(48)~~ of the first component ~~(2)~~ in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component ~~(42)~~ is able to cover the engagement formation ~~(11)~~ .

5-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is formed as a cup enclosing the stop component ~~(38)~~ and partially the coupling component ~~(42)~~.

6-(currently amended) The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the stop component ~~(38)~~ and the coupling component ~~(42)~~ are mounted around a tube ~~(32)~~ of the second component ~~(4)~~ , which is internally threaded ~~(16)~~ for screwing with the first component ~~(2)~~.

7-**(currently amended)** The device according to claims 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ can be fitted onto a second engagement formation ~~(13)~~ integral with the second component ~~(4)~~ and has its own engagement formation ~~(25)~~ which can be used in place of the second engagement formation ~~(13)~~ in order to carry out the relative rotation of the two first and second components ~~(2, 4)~~ by means of tools.

8-**(currently amended)** The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is secured onto the second component ~~(4)~~ by snap-fit ~~(24, 27)~~.

9-**(currently amended)** The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is secured onto the second component ~~(4)~~ by crimping ~~(29)~~.

10-**(currently amended)** The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the body ~~(18)~~ is produced in one piece with the second component ~~(4)~~.

11-**(currently amended)** The device according to claim 1, characterized by being in that the device is adapted to be mounted as a single unit onto the second component.

12-**(currently amended)** The device according to claim 1, characterized by being entirely mounted on the second component ~~(4)~~.

13-**(currently amended)** A pipe coupling comprising a first pipe end-portion provided with an external thread and, a second pipe end-portion, a nut which is rotatably mounted on the second

pipe end-portion and can be screwed on the external thread of the first pipe end-portion and rotatably mounted on another pipe end-portion, characterized in that said coupling also comprises, and a locking device according to claim 1 for selectively locking against relative rotation the two components constituted by the nut and the first pipe end-portion provided with an the external thread.

14-(currently amended) The coupling according to claim 13, characterized in that the first component (2) and the other second pipe end-end (3) portions and the nut are standard non-modified components.

15-(currently amended) The device according to claim 2, characterized in that the coupling component (42) can be drawn back against a the spring (36) and comprises a stop (47) for engagement of a shoulder (48) of the first component (2) in order to limit the axial extent by which the coupling component (42) is able to cover the engagement formation (11).